

The GRANGE

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CHAIR'S REPORT



The consensus is that people liked the format of the annual meeting and in particular appreciated the stimulating lecture on the "House Museum in the Twenty-First Century" by Carl Benn. Carl challenged us to many things but especially to deepen our knowledge of social history and to re-examine our presentation and story telling.

Summer is vacation time for many of us, but it is also the busiest visitor season at The Grange. If you are in the city, please offer to do an extra shift. With these staffing pressures, would you please be sensitive to your rotation on your shift and to the need for prompt breaks. Four high school students will join us for the summer. Do welcome them and make their Grange experience rewarding and fun.

I would like to thank Helen Hatton, Elaine Maloney and June O'Brien who are retiring from the Executive. They have done a great job and made a real contribution to The Grange. Helen is taking an around the world trip. Elaine, fortunately for us, is continuing as newsletter editor and June will focus her efforts as day captain of the Thursday shift. Thank you. You are very special people.

Peggy Eades, our secretary-co-ordinator, retires on July 31, 1997 after thirteen years of faithful service at The Grange and I am pleased to announce that she has agreed to have a tea on Monday, June 23, 1997 to mark the occasion. Do come to the Music Room between 2:00 and 4:00 pm to honour Peggy.

Helvi Hunter has planned another great outing to the Market Gallery on Thursday June 12, 1997 at 11 am. We all owe Helvi a special vote of thanks for a superbly organized day in Port Hope with Katherine Ashenburg.

- Flo Morson, Chair, The Grange

P E G G Y E A D E S

RETIREMENT TEA: MONDAY, JUNE 23 from 2-4pm, MUSIC ROOM

Peggy was born in England and raised in East Finchley, a suburb of London. She met her husband, Jeffrey, of Welsh stock, and soon decided that he was the man for her. They have been married for 40 years. The mid-fifties were challenging years for Peggy and Jeffrey when they emigrated to Canada and started to raise their three children.

Today, Peggy has four grand-daughters whom she can see regularly as they live near by. One of her daughters lives in Boston, the other in the Toronto area. Her son, who works with the Fire Department, is also in the Toronto area. Peggy has a sister living in Spain and her brother still calls East Finchley his home.

The Art Gallery of Toronto has been Peggy's home away from home for 16 years. She worked in the AGO development department for a few years and then in The Grange. In Peggy's service at The Grange she has worked with six of The Grange's Chair Persons.

Peggy has mentioned that when she and Jeffrey retire, they plan to spend time in Florida close to the golf course and the warm sandy beaches sipping refreshing cocktails.

All of us at The Grange will miss Peggy's charming personality, her calming influence, her diplomacy and her great rapport with the volunteers. Solid as the 'Rock of Gibraltar', Peggy always had everything under control.



The Grange Volunteer Committee 1997-98

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REMINDER

Please submit your news articles
for the next
Grange Newsletter by
AUGUST 15th, 1997.

The GRANGE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THREE NEW MEMBERS ON THE EXECUTIVE

There are three new members on The Grange Executive for 1997-98. They are Jane Ash, Grange Dinners, Georgette Caldwell, Staffing and Pat Robertson, Education. Sally Lowrey who completed her term as Staffing chair is continuing on the executive as co-chair of Grange Dinners with Jane Ash.

Thursday's Jane Ash originally hails from Nova Scotia and came to the AGO as a Barnes volunteer. She is married with two adult children. Daughter Meredith who is to be married in September has applied to be a volunteer at The Grange. (Is this our first mother and daughter combination?). When not cooking those great volunteer dinners, Jane will be found on the golf course.

New chair of staffing is Georgette Caldwell, a Friday volunteer. Home for Georgette was London, England until the late forties when her husband transferred from the Royal Navy to the Canadian Navy. Naval bases across Canada became home, until finally settling in Montreal and then Toronto. Georgette is mother of one daughter and two sons and a grandmother of two.

Pat Robertson, incoming chair of Education, is Toronto born and bred. She is a Wednesday night volunteer and is a member of the Daily Pursuits team. Recently retired from Jesse Ketchum Senior school where she taught Grade 8, Pat is an active community volunteer reading for the blind and is the incoming president of the York Pioneers. She has a daughter.

The executive committee position of Kettledrum has been retired in order to remove any confusion in the minds of the public that The Grange is still in the catering business. The new name is Grange Dinners.

The name of Training has been changed to Grange Lectures and Tours to make it descriptive of the function. Training has evolved to become the complete responsibility of the day captains under the new educational program. Additional or special training is done by the individual chairs as in the case of cooking by the chair of Historic Kitchens.

Elaine Maloney will continue as editor of The Grange newsletter and will report to the chair of Communication, Margaret McGuigan.

The Grange Annual Meeting took place in The Grange Music Room and was held on Monday, May 12, 1997.

OPENING AND CLOSING THE SHUTTERS

A plea to all volunteers !

Please try to be more careful when you open and close the shutters each day.

The sheer curtains (especially the new ones in the Dining Room and the Drawing Room) are frequently being pulled off centre, and even more serious, the metal bolts which are used to secure the closed shutters are causing damage to the wooden frame of the windows. We think that both problems occur when volunteers try to do the job too quickly. Thank you all for your consideration.

- Jane Heinemann
The House Committee

BREAKFAST IS SERVED IN THE MORNING ROOM !

As most of you have probably noticed by now, we have a slightly different display in the Morning Room. The Monday Volunteers have set the table for breakfast, and we hope that this change will inspire the interpreters to tell visitors about the first meal of the day in the 1830's at The Grange.

Breakfast in the early 19th century was generally an informal meal, taken any time between 9 and 12. Some accounts suggest that only bread and butter (or muffins, cakes, rolls, etc.) were put out along with coffee, tea, or chocolate; whereas other accounts mention eggs, cold meat, and more substantial items. The members of the House Committee decided to create a very simple meal because we have a limited supply of appropriate dishes (for example, we have no egg cups or no chocolate pot), and we also have a rather small table which won't hold many dishes.

On the TABLE you see two places with a plate, knife, and napkin, as well as a cup and saucer with a spoon. There is also a tray with a coffee pot, tea pot, and cream and sugar bowl; and behind the tray we have positioned the silver urn. The tea caddy, a covered dish to hold rolls or muffins, extra cups, and saucers, and a small bowl for jam are also on the table.

We have set up extra plates, knives, and napkins on the SIDEBOARD next to the fireplace, as well as another covered dish for rolls and a basket for holding bread to make toast. The hot water kettle is still on the floor, and it might be interesting to point out the toaster which hangs on a nail to the right of the fireplace.

We have placed one cup and saucer, along with a crumpled napkin, on the DESK to remind you of the informality of the meal. We have tried to suggest that someone has taken his beverage to a place where he can sit and read the newspaper.

Although we have found no description of a breakfast in the 1830's in Upper Canada, we are assuming that the customs are roughly the same as those for people of a similar social class in the northern United States or in England. Some of the best descriptions come from foreign travellers who are keenly aware of differences in customs and so are likely to talk about them. Francois de la Rochefoucauld-Liancourt in his 1784 travel journal, *A Frenchman in England*, notes that "In the houses of the rich you have coffee, chocolate and tea and bread and butter in various forms and the morning newspapers are on the table ... so that conversation is not of a lively nature.:" And a Swiss gentleman, a Pastor Moritz in his *Travels Through Various Parts of England in 1798* talks about "a kind of bread and butter ... usually eaten with tea, which is toasted by the fire and is incomparably good. You take one slice after the other and hold it to the fire on a fork till the butter is melted so that it penetrates a number of slices all at once; this is called toast."

In Roberts' *Guide for Butlers and Household Staff*, Boston, 1827, we have precise instructions for how to set the breakfast table:

...I first will give you instructions for your breakfast table ... spread your cloth neatly, observing that the centre crease of your cloth is right in the centre of the table, and that it don't [sic] hang longer at one end than at the other; then proceed to set out your breakfast tray; laying a cup and saucer for each person, with a teaspoon in each saucer, at the right hand side of the cup; then set in the centre of the tray, your sugar pot on the right hand, your cream pot on the left, and your slop bowl [which we do not have] in the centre, with your tea pot behind them, so as to be right under the tea urn, and that the tap of the urn may reach it, when on the table. As soon as you have this done, set your tray at the end of the table where the lady sits that pours out the tea, then put around your plates, one for each person, putting them at a proper distance from each other; then your knife ... on the right hand ... with the end of the handles even with the edge of the table ...

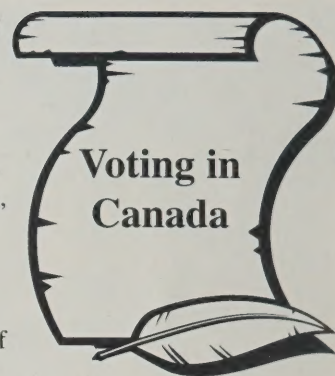
When you have everything properly arranged on your breakfast table then put round the chairs, and if it is cold weather, see that your fires burn well ...

Whatever you have to carry in for breakfast, such as toast, rolls, eggs, &c. always take them in on a waiter; never carry in, or hand any thing with the naked hand, as it looks very ungentle ...

(p. 42, Applewood Books edition)

- Jane Heinemann, The House Committee

Today we take the "secret ballot" for granted. A century ago things were different. The following is taken in part from the article: *Canada Votes, The struggle for a secret ballot*, by Thelma Landon, from *The Beaver* magazine April/May 1997 Vol 77:2.



"In British North America some colonies continued the tradition of oral voting, each elector declaring his choice in open meeting to an official who recorded the votes. Others adopted a ballot system, the voter writing the name of his choice on a piece of paper and depositing it in the ballot box.

Given the sparse population, limited literacy, and restricted suffrage, secrecy was not a feature of either system.

As population and the economy grew, calls to expand the franchise demanded attention. The right to vote reached slowly but inexorably into the homes and shops of men who had scarcely dreamed of such a privilege a few years earlier. Other men, more experienced, saw irresistible opportunities for manipulating the vote to their own advantage. Soon a complex configuration of electoral fraud, bribery and intimidation emerged.

Nova Scotia got a head start because it has the first locally-elected colonial Assembly. In Kings Country, for example, in 1793 the *sitting number* sold 100 acres to each of 29 men for £5 and his vote. Similar *understandings* regarding land continued well into the nineteenth century in many jurisdictions.

Fraudulent freeholds were another way to increase the number of voters pledged to a certain candidate. An extreme example of this occurred in 1850 in Saint John County, New Brunswick. Here a candidate gained 250 votes by dividing a swamp into 250 fraudulent freeholds after the election committee announced it would not question the nature or value of freeholds claimed by voters.

Quiet cemeteries and active imaginations produced voter turnouts much greater than the actual number of eligible voters in some urban areas. As *Le Journal de Quebec* reported on 12 January 1858, votes had been cast *in the names of the living and the dead of all nations*. In this instance the fraud and perjury were so blatant that legislation to create an official voters' register followed quickly.

A popular form of bribery was the *hospitality suite*, located in houses adjacent to polling places and offering free food and drink to the candidate's supporters. These started in a modest way but developed into lavish spreads, so costly that they became a financial deterrent to all but the wealthiest candidates. This distorted the nomination process as well as the vote.

Quite a different welcome might be planned for persons expected to vote against a candidate. They often faced threats, fights, even riots outside a polling place, all aimed at preventing them from entering to cast their votes.

Economic intimidation was both insidious and pervasive. To a large extent it was self-inflicted. What man could risk voting openly against candidates favoured by his landlord, employer, major customer, supplier, even if no threats were made or contemplated?

In time, a growing population and diversifying economy prompted more changes. The number of elected positions increased and costs of standing for office soared; the era of independent candidates passed and political parties took centre stage. Some elements of electoral reform got a boost from this development: representation, franchise, voters' registers. But a secret ballot was not high on party reform lists; open voting was far easier to control."

The first secret ballot law was passed in 1856 in Australia, and Britain followed in 1872.

"Canada's newest province, British Columbia, enacted the Dominion's first ballot legislation in February 1873 ... Ontario and the Dominion Government followed in 1874, Quebec and Nova Scotia in 1875, then the other provinces and territories. By the time Alberta and Saskatchewan joined Confederation in 1905, the Australian ballot was a *fait accompli* ... Only Prince Edward Island was dissatisfied with the change. After introducing the secret ballot in 1877, Islanders reinstated open voting in 1879 and did not adopt the secret ballot permanently until 1913."

The 'Secret Ballot' is seemingly a well-controlled and trustworthy system. Now if we could only be sure those for whom we vote are equally trustworthy.

-compiled by Avril Stringer, *The Grange*, Research

VOLUNTEER BUS TRIP, May 6th, 1997

- 1798 Robert Baldwin and family travelled from York to a farm he had bought in Clarke Township. They travelled in open bateaux, when night came on, they pitched their tent on the shore of Lake Ontario. The journey took two days.
- 1834 Matthew Cassan, on his way to a grant of land in Seymour township, left Toronto by steamboat which reached Cobourg the same evening. He "called on Mr. G.L. Boulton and handed him the letter given me by Hon. Peter Robinson. Mr. Boulton received me very courteously and instructed me how to reach Seymour and spoke very flatteringly of the township, said he owned a great deal of land there."
- 1997 The Grange volunteers left Toronto in a large new bus at 9 am and reached Port Hope at 10:30 am via Highway 401.

We walked with Katherine Ashenburg, looked at architecturally interesting houses, toured the Capitol Theatre with Donald Rumgay and visited St. Mark's Anglican Church. Lunch was enjoyed in the Carlyle Inn (originally a Bank of Upper Canada). Sandra Matthews, a former chair of The Grange joined us for lunch and brought us brochures of the house and garden tours and maps of the antiques shop locations.

And we were back in Toronto before dinner time!

- Helvi Hunter